

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated December 22, 2005.

Applicant submits herewith replacement sheets showing Figures 1-6 in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84.

Applicant is appreciative of Examiner's comments regarding the allowability of the claims 8, 24 and 29-35 and the allowability of claims 6, 7, and 16-21 based upon the inclusion of the subject matter recited in any associated base claim and any intervening claims. As such, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 6 and dependent claim 7 has been amended to properly depend from newly amended claim 1. Also, independent claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 14, 15 and 16 and dependent claim 17 has been amended to properly depend from newly amended claim 12. Claims 2-6, 9-11, 13-16, 22-23, 25-28 and 36 have been canceled. The cancellation of these claims should in no way be construed as acquiescence to any of the rejections stated. These claims were canceled solely to expedite the prosecution of the present application. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added, and based upon the Examiner's comments and the amendment made herein, claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 17-21, 24 and 29-35 should now be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the claims are in proper form and clearly define over the prior art. Therefore, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner does not find that Applicant's claims are now in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing remarks and amendments have placed the application in better form for appeal.

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If, in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney. The Commissioner is directed to charge or debit any additional fees or refunds required, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855 of Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP.

Respectfully submitted,
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN, & BORUN LLP

February 22, 2006

By: 

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In the Drawings:

Applicant submits herewith replacement sheets.